

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Status of the Claims.

Claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 17 are pending with entry of this amendment. Claim 13 being previously cancelled, and claim 18 being currently cancelled. Claim 15 is amended herein. This amendment introduces no new matter and support is replete throughout the specification. The amendment is made without prejudice and is not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.

With respect to claim 15, the amendment provides proper antecedence in response to a section 112 indefiniteness rejection.

Applicants submit that no new matter has been added to the application by way of the above Amendment. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite because of an antecedent basis irregularity. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful reading and have amended the claim to provide proper antecedence for the word "peptide". Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Although Applicants believe the original claim to be enabled, in the spirit of cooperation and to expedite prosecution, they have cancelled claim 18. The issue of enablement being moot, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of rejections for alleged lack of enablement.

Allowed Claims.

Applicants appreciate the determination by the Office that the great majority of the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants would like to take these claims to issue.

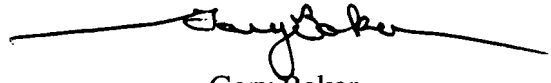
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

However, if any of the claims are deemed not to be in condition for allowance after consideration of this Response, a telephone interview with the Examiner is hereby requested to expedite the issuance of all allowable claims. In such a case, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 769-3510 to immediately discuss remaining issues or to schedule an interview.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

- 1) A transmittal sheet; and,
- 2) A receipt indication postcard.